

## ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus for implementing network management policies is provided.

A communication path is determined that passes through a domain of a network. The communication path characterizes the first domain as a node, but does not lose information.

A management policy is then implemented using the communication path.

5        Another aspect of the invention provides a method implementing a management policy using topology reduction. A network is abstracted into domains, and each domain may be cloudified if that domain is determined to have a cloudification characteristic. Domains that are cloudified are subsequently represented as having reduced topology and internal connectivity, but this representation does not incur information loss when management  
10       policies are implemented using the cloudified domains.

      In other aspects, the invention provides a computer-readable medium and system configured to carry out the foregoing.